



John Dratnie, Toronto radio actor who plays the role of "Mr. Clay", a harassed but lovable father, in the CBC's Sunday drama broadcast, Alan and Me, heard at 4:00 p.m. Besides this he is heard on many "Stage 48" dramas, and in the CBC Wednesday Night Series, both as actor and narrator. He and his wife, actress Claire Murray, have collaborated in writing a number of plays for radio.

Lethbridge Experimental Station

WEEKLY LETTER HINTS ON DRY LAND VEGETABLE GARDENING

Through the years of dry land vegetable garden investigations, certain fundamental principles have been evolved at the Experimental Station, Lethbridge. The most important of these are Wind Protection and Moisture Conservation. Therefore it would seem advisable to pass on some of the known information which may assist farmers to raise better vegetable gardens and to give encouragement to those who have failed or are just beginning. Another reason for wanting to assist growers to raise good vegetables, is that vegetable gardening is a financially sound investment during these days of high cost of living and adds materially to the every day human diet of the farm.

Dry land gardens must be protected from the wind not only to decrease evaporation but to protect the tender vegetable plants from physical damage. The best means of protection is to plant rows of shrubs, either caragana or lilac on

the windward sides of the garden. Where shrubs are too small or do not exist, shelter can be provided with snow fences. Not only do wind breaks protect the garden during the growing season but act as snow traps in the winter, causing snow to drift onto the garden area.

Moisture conservation embraces several operations which are very important to dry land gardening. If at all possible moisture should be stored in the soil in advance of the cropping year. That means that one-half of the garden area should be summerfallowed where soil drifting does not play havoc with the garden area and the other one-half seeded to vegetable crops.

Another important part of moisture conservation is weed control. Weeds compete vigorously with the seeded plants, for available moisture supply, with the result that the less hardy vegetable plants are robbed of moisture by the weeds. The destruction of weeds can be done with shallow cultivation before the weeds have taken too much moisture.

Moisture can be conserved also by spacing the rows far enough apart so that the competition between vegetables for moisture will not be too severe. In other words the rows should be at least double distance apart that they would be under irrigation.

The following less important suggestions may add further to the success of dry land vegetable gardening.

1. Apply well rotted manure at the rate of twenty tons per acre in the fall and then fall plow.
2. Prepare the seed bed as early as the land will allow it in the spring, so as to finally have a firm friable seed bed.
3. Grow certified seed and varieties that are approved for your locality. Reference should be made to the Recommended Horticultural Varieties and Zonation Map for Alberta, obtainable from the district Agriculturalist or the nearest Experimental Station.

My Week

by R. J. Deachman

You may recall a story I wrote about Senator Vandenberg—not one of our own Senators—they rarely tear up the gravel—but the well-known Senator from Michigan. Vandenberg is a remarkable illustration of a man, who has seen a new light and walked in it. He was an immovable rock-ribbed Republican. He was an isolationist, he was a high protectionist. He believed that all the average American had to do was to stay within his own country, work like hell and grow rich. Then came a change in mind and heart. It is only lately that I have seen what seems like a natural explanation of what happened to him.

Senator Vandenberg has been a real worker from his youth up. He is a thinker and applies himself to his tasks with great earnestness. He is not an office seeker. That is to say he is not naturally an aspirant for the Presidency of the United States. He would take it, I imagine, if circumstances compelled him but when I met him years ago in Washington and put this up to him he gave a positive and emphatic "no" and said he hadn't the slightest desire to become President of the United States; he wanted to do his work where he was and make a good job of it.

Times change—all this was ten years ago—it's different now. James Reston, one of the best known news paper men of America and a regular writer for the New York Times recently gave this explanation:

"Mr. Vandenberg's philosophy was changed primarily by the V-1 and V-2 attacks on Britain in 1944. The devilish cunning and the enormous possibilities of the robot bomb shook his faith in the old conception of oceanic protection. This invention shattered his isolationist prejudice and opened his mind to a new foreign policy."

Mr. Reston goes on to say that he has freed his mind from all presidential ambitions and:

"With a free mind and a firm conviction that he was not even going to seek reelection to the Senate in 1946, he began to ponder the great question of peace and America's role in the world."

Now a strange thing happened. In his skillful handling of the American aid program, in his new breadth of vision which arises from looking at things whole instead of in part, Senator Vandenberg has stepped naturally into a higher level of statesmanship than if he had followed his own point of view. There is the possibility that the new light he has gained on world problems the Senator may find himself confronted by a definite call to assume the responsibilities of the presidency.

Even so showed an observer as Walter Lippman pointed this out the other day and referred to him as

the most effective figure in American post-war foreign affairs. He points out that Vandenberg has followed the path that the old Republicans do not like to take but nevertheless have to take, and as they look at the honor and affection in which Senator Vandenberg is now held they can see that changing one's point of view is not so disagreeable after all—policies do become outmoded—they gain from the "new look."

Politicians do not regard highly men who change their political and economic viewpoints but where the change has not taken place in the man but has taken place in the party and where he has been one of the

leaders in the movement to lead the party from darkness into light they must face the facts and look at things from a different angle. The change of attitude could not have taken place if it had not been one of genuine conviction. The Senator is not a man who would shift his ideas with every wind that blows, he is thoroughly convinced that he is as right in his present attitude as he was right in his former position. He knows that the world has changed—"states like men have destinies that take them, not knowing why nor where". The same man will not stand forever in the last ditch fighting for a lost cause.

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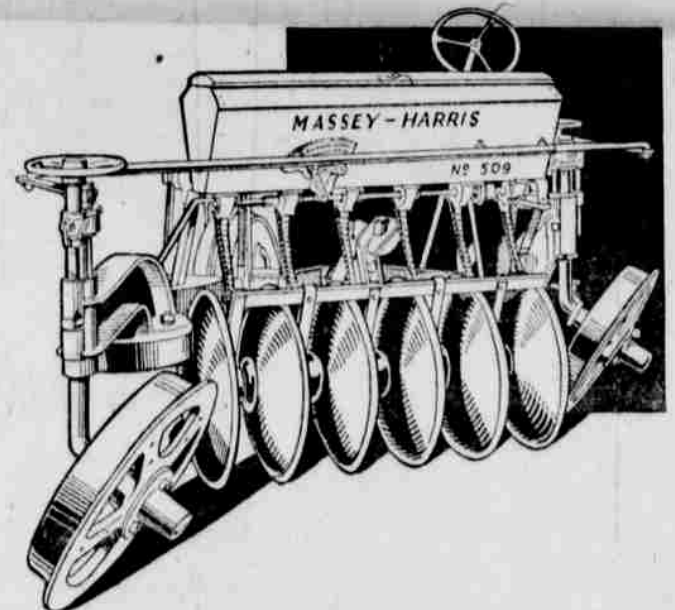
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